

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07

NEA-14 H-03 DRC-01 /179 W
----- 105679

R 241500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4344

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PFOR GH

SUBJ: NEGOTIATION OF LOAN AGREEMENT

REF: ACCRA 3987

1. I CAN THINK OF NO MORE IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FACING US IN GHANA THAN THAT OF THE CURRENT LOAN NEGOTIATIONS, BEING CONDUCTED BY USAID DIRECTOR NORTH WITH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING. WE FACE SEVERAL CHALLENGING ISSUES IN THESE TALKS, AND SINCE THEIR OUTCOME WILL AFFECT ENTIRE US RELATIONS WITH GOG, I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THREE KEY MATTERS.

A. THE TONE OF THE AGREEMENT REFLECTS A BYGONE ERA, FOR IT IS PATERNALISTIC IN MUCH OF ITS STYLE. THIS NOT RPT NOT A MATTER OF TINKERING WITH A WORD HERE AND THERE, IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT MAJOR PORTIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BE REDRAFTED WITH FULL RECOGNITION OF PRIDE OF INDEPENDENCE ON PART GOG.

B. IN ADDITION, CERTAIN PROVISIONS INVOLVE IN GOG EYES AN INTERFERENCE IN THEIR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS THAT THEY CONSIDER INTOLERABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER PRESENT
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ATMOSPHERE, THEY ARE SURPRISED THAT THEY EXPECTED

SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE "OAU BROTHERS" ALGERIA, SOMALIA, EGYPT AND SUDAN AS COUNTRIES OF POSSIBLE SOURCE OF PROCUREMENT. (IN ANY EVENT, WE PRESUME EGYPT SHOULD NO LONGER BE ON LIST OF INELIGIBLE SOURCE COUNTRIES.)

C. CONCERNS ABOUT ASSOCIATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, E.G. COMINGLING, ALSO SOUNDS ANACHRONISTIC TO THEM, IN LIGHT CURRENT DETENTE. AGAIN, U.S. CAN DEAL WITH BIG BROTHER, BUT SMALL BOY GHANAIANS CANNOT.

2. IN MY OWN TALKS WITH COMMISSIONER ECONOMIC PLANNING I MADE CLEAR THE IMPORTANCE IN U.S. OF RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS, RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER LAW, ETC. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT. AT SAME TIME, MINISTRY OFFICIALS ASK US TO RECOGNIZE THAT THEY MUST DEFEND THIS AGREEMENT BEFORE HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC NRC AND THAT CLAUSES ANTI-PATHETIC TO OFFICIALS ARE ANATHEMA TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

3. I REALIZE THAT MODIFICATIONS SUGGESTED ABOVE CAN CAUSE US CERTAIN PROBLEMS. I URGE HOWEVER, THAT WE USE THIS OCCASION TO ADAPT TONE AND CONTENT OF OUR AID AGREEMENTS WITH GHANA (AND POSSIBLY OTHER COUNTRIES) TO THE IMPERATIVES OF THE PRESENT.

HADSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, DEVELOPMENT LOANS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ACCRA04055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740200-0965
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740723/aaaaatoh.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ACCRA 3987
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEGOTIATION OF LOAN AGREEMENT
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, GH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005